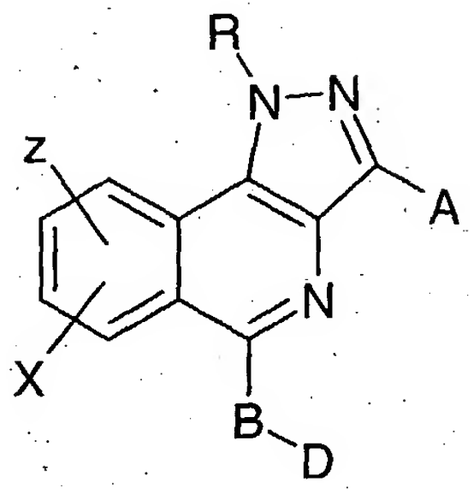
What is claimed is:

1. A compound of the formula I



(I)

or a stereoisomeric form or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of the formula I, wherein

A is $-(C_1-C_6)$-alkyl, in which alkyl is straight-chain or branched and is optionally substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by

$-O-R^1$ or

$-C(O)-OR^1$,

$-C(O)-NR^1R^1$,

$-C(O)-NR^1-SO_2R^1$,

$-NR^1R^1$,

-CN, in which R^1 is

hydrogen,

$-(C_1-C_6)$-alkyl,

$-(C_6-C_{14})$aryl or

fluoroalkyl of the formula $-C_nH_xF_y$ or fluoroalkoxy of the formula $-OC_nH_xF_y$, wherein n is an integer from 1 to 6, x is an integer from 0 to 12, y is an integer from 1 to 13 and sum of x and y is 2n + 1,

$-O-R^1$,

$-SR^1$,

$-S(O)-R^1$

$-S(O)_2-R^1$

$-C(O)-OR^1$,

fluoroalkyl of the formula $-C_nH_xF_y$ or fluoroalkoxy of the formula $-OC_nH_xF_y$, wherein n is an integer from 1 to 6, x is an integer from 0 to 12, y is an integer from 1 to 13 and sum of x and y is 2n + 1,

$-C(O)-NR^1R^1$,

$-C(O)-NR^1-SO_2R^1$,

$-NR^1R^1$,

-CN,

heteroaryl having from 5 to 14 ring members, in which heteroaryl is unsubstituted or optionally substituted once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, in which R^2 is

$-(C_1-C_4)$-alkyl,

-OH,

$-O-(C_1-C_4)$-alkyl,

halogen,

$-N(R^3)-R^4$, in which R^3 and R^4 are, independently of each other, hydrogen atom or $-(C_1-C_4)$-alkyl,

fluoroalkyl of the formula $-C_nH_xF_y$ or fluoroalkoxy of the formula $-OC_nH_xF_y$, wherein n is an integer from 1 to 4, x is an integer from 0 to 8, y is an integer from 1 to 9 and sum of x and y is 2n + 1,

-CN,

$-SR^1$,

$-S(O)-R^1$,

$-S(O)_2-R^1$ or

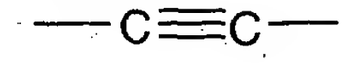
$-C(O)-NR^1R^1$,

$-(C_3-C_6)$-cycloalkyl, in which cycloalkyl is unsubstituted or substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, and R^2 is defined as above,

heterocycle having from 5 to 12 ring members, in which heterocycle is unsubstituted or substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, and R^2 is defined as above,

B is a covalent bond,

-C=CR^1-,



,

-O(CH$_2$)$_a$-, in which a is an integer from 1 to 4,

O, S, NR^2, -C(O)-, -NR^2-C(O)-, -C(O)-NR^2-, -NR^2-SO$_2$-, -SO$_2$-NR^2-, -NR^2-C(O)-NR^2-, and R^2 is defined as above, or

-(C$_1$-C$_4$)-alkylene, in which alkylene is straight-chain or branched and is optionally substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^1, and R^1 is defined as above,

D is -(C$_1$-C$_6$)-alkyl, in which alkyl is straight-chain or branched and is optionally substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^1, and R^1 is defined as above,

heteroaryl having from 5 to 14 ring members, in which heteroaryl is unsubstituted or is substituted once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, and R^2 is defined as above,

heterocycle having from 5 to 12 ring members, in which heterocycle is unsubstituted or substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, and R^2 is defined as above,

-(C$_6$-C$_{14}$)-aryl, in which aryl is unsubstituted or substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, and R^2 is defined as above, or

-(C$_3$-C$_6$)-cycloalkyl, in which cycloalkyl is unsubstituted or substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, and R^2 is defined as above, or

B-D is hydrogen,

halogen,

fluoroalkyl of the formula -C$_n$H$_x$F$_y$ or fluoroalkoxy of the formula -OC$_n$H$_x$F$_y$, wherein n is an integer from 1 to 4, x is an integer from 0 to 8, y is an integer from 1 to 9 and sum of x and y is 2n + 1,

$-(CH_2)_a-Y-R^3$, in which a is an integer from 1 to 4, Y is O, S, NR^2, and R^3 is

$-(C_1-C_6)$-alkyl,

$-(C_6-C_{14})$-aryl,

$-(C_3-C_6)$-cycloalkyl, and

R is hydrogen,

$-(C_1-C_6)$-alkyl, or

$-(C_6-C_{14})$-aryl-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, in which aryl is unsubstituted or substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, and R^2 is defined as above, and

X and Z are identical or different and are, independently of each other selected from:

hydrogen atom,

$-(C_1-C_4)$-alkyl,

-OH,

$-O-(C_1-C_4$-alkyl),

halogen,

fluoroalkyl of the formula $-C_nH_xF_y$ or fluoroalkoxy of the formula $-OC_nH_xF_y$, wherein n is an integer from 1 to 6, x is an integer from 0 to 12, y is an integer from 1 to 13 and sum of x and y is 2n + 1,

$-C(O)-OR^1$,

$-C(O)-NR^1R^1$,

$-C(O)-NR^1-SO_2R^1$,

$-NR^1R^1$,

$-NR^1-C(O)-NR^1R^1$,

$-NR^1-C(O)-R^1$,

$-NR^1-C(O)-OR^1$,

$-O-C(O)-NR^1R^1$,

-CN,

$-SR^1$,

$-S(O)-R^1$,

$-S(O)_2-R^1$,

-$S(O)_2$-NR^1R^1,

-NR^1-SO_2-R^1, in which R^1 is as defined above,

heterocycle having from 5 to 12 ring members, in which heterocycle is unsubstituted or substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, and R^2 is defined as above, or

-(C_3-C_6)-cycloalkyl, in which cycloalkyl is unsubstituted or substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, and R^2 is defined as above,

with the proviso that when A is –(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, -O-R^1, -C(O)-OR^1, or heteroaryl, at least one of the following applies:

B is not a covalent bond or –(C_1-C_4)-alkylene,

D is not heteroaryl, heterocycle, –(C_6-C_{14})-aryl, –(C_3-C_6)-cycloalkyl, or

X and Z are not –(C_1-C_4)-alkyl, -OH, –O-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl, or halogen.

2. A compound of the formula I as claimed in claim 1, wherein

A is -(C_1-C_3)-alkyl, in which alkyl is straight-chain or branched and is optionally substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by
-O-R^1, or
-C(O)-OR^1, in which R^1 is
hydrogen,
-(C_1-C_3)-alkyl, or
-CF_3
fluoroalkyl of the formula -$C_nH_xF_y$ or fluoroalkoxy of the formula -$OC_nH_xF_y$, wherein n is an integer from 1 to 3, x is an integer from 0 to 6, y is an integer from 1 to 7 and sum of x and y is 2n + 1,

B is a covalent bond or O,

D is phenyl or naphthyl, in which phenyl or naphthyl is unsubstituted or substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, in which R^2 is

fluorine, chlorine or bromine,

-OH,

$-CF_3$,

$-SR^1$, in which R^1 is defined as above,

$-(C_1-C_4)$-alkyl

$-O-(C_1-C_2)$-alkyl or

$-N(R^3)-R^4$, in which R^3 and R^4 are, independently of each other, hydrogen atom or $-(C_1-C_3)$-alkyl,

heteroaryl selected from the group consisting of pyridyl, furanyl, pyrrolyl, isoxazolyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiophenyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, quinoxalinyl and thiophenyl, in which heteroaryl is unsubstituted or substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, in which R^2 is defined as above or

$-(C_4-C_6)$-cycloalkyl, in which cycloalkyl is unsubstituted or substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, and R^2 is defined as above, or

B-D is $((CH_2)_a-Y-R^3$, in which a is an integer from 1 to 2, Y is O and R^3 is $-(C_1-C_3)$-alkyl, and

R is hydrogen,

$-(C_1-C_3)$-alkyl, or

-phenyl-(C_1-C_3)-alkyl, and

X and Z are identical or different and are, independently of each other, hydrogen, $-C(O)-O(C_1-C_3)$alkyl, $-OCH_3$, $-N(CH_3)_2$ or halogen.

3. A compound of the formula 1 as claimed in claim 1, wherein the compound of the formula I is selected from the group consisting of:
5-pyridin-2-yl-3-trifluoromethyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,

1,3-dimethyl-5-(3-trifluoromethylphenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
5-phenyl-3-trifluoromethyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
1,3-dimethyl-5-(3-trifluoromethylphenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
1,3-dimethyl-5-(2,6-difluorophenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
1-benzyl-5-cyclohexyl-3-methyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
1-benzyl-5-naphthyl-3-methyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
5-methoxymethyl-3-methyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
7-methoxycarbonyl-3-methyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
7-methoxycarbonyl-3-methyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
7-dimethylamino-3-methyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
7-dimethylamino-3-methyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
6-dimethylamino-3-methyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
6-dimethylamino-3-methyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
8-dimethylamino-3-methyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
8-dimethylamino-3-methyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
1,3-dimethyl-5-(3-methyl-thiophen-2-yl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-phenyl-9-trifluoromethyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-9-trifluoromethyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline, and
3-methyl-5-(2,3,4,5,6-pentafluoro-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline.

4. A compound selected from the group consisting of:
5-benzo[b]thiophene-2yl-3-methyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
7-bromo-3-methyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
7-bromo-3-methyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
5-(3-chloro-benzo[b]thiophen-2-yl)-3-methyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,

5-(2-chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-3-methyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
5-(6-chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-3-methyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-ethyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-ethyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-ethyl-5-pyridin-3-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
5-furan-2-yl-3-methyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
7-methoxy-3-methyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(3-methyl-benzofuran-2-yl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
6-chloro-3-methyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
6-fluoro-3-methyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
8-chloro-3-methyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
8-fluoro-3-methyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
9-chloro-3-methyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
9-fluoro-3-methyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3,9-dimethyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(2-methyl-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(3-methyl-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(4-methyl-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(2-bromo-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(3-bromo-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(2-chloro-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(4-chloro-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(3,4-dichloro-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(2,6-dichloro-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(2-fluoro-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(2,4-difluoro-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(2,6-difluoro-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
6-chloro-3-methyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
6-fluoro-3-methyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
8-chloro-3-methyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
8-fluoro-3-methyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
9-chloro-3-methyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
9-fluoro-3-methyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,

3,9-dimethyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-quinolin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-quinolin-3-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-quinoxalin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-thiophen-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline, and
3-methyl-5-(3-methyl-thiophen-2-yl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline.

5. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective content of at least one compound of the formula I as claimed in claim 1 together with a pharmaceutically suitable carrier optionally in combination with a suitable additive, other active compounds and auxiliary substances.

6. A method of treating a disease condition associated with the increased activity of NIK comprising administering to a patient suffering from said disease condition a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

7. The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the compound is according to claim 2.

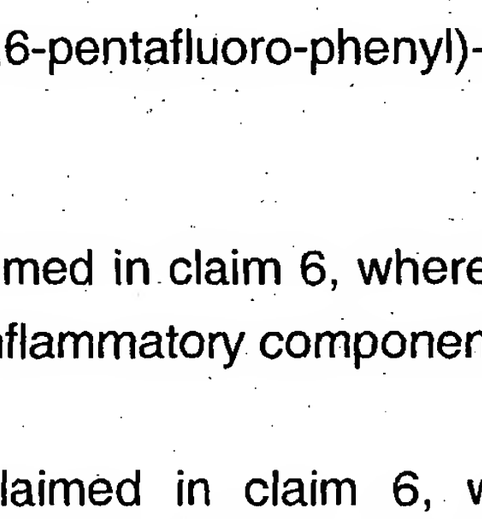
8. The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:
5-pyridin-2-yl-3-trifluoromethyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
1,3-dimethyl-5-(3-trifluoromethylphenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
5-phenyl-3-trifluoromethyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
1,3-dimethyl-5-(3-trifluoromethylphenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
1,3-dimethyl-5-(2,6-difluorophenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
1-benzyl-5-cyclohexyl-3-methyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
1-benzyl-5-naphthyl-3-methyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
5-methoxymethyl-3-methyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,

7-methoxycarbonyl-3-methyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
7-methoxycarbonyl-3-methyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
7-dimethylamino-3-methyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
7-dimethylamino-3-methyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
1,3-dimethyl-5-(3-methyl-thiophen-2-yl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-phenyl-9-trifluoromethyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-9-trifluoromethyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline, and
3-methyl-5-(2,3,4,5,6-pentafluoro-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline.

9. The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the disease condition is caused due to an inflammatory component.

10. The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the diseases are osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, asthma, irritable bowel disease, Alzheimer's disease, stroke, diabetes, atherosclerosis, multiple sclerosis, rejection reactions on the part of the body against a transplanted organ or rejection reactions on the part of the transplanted organ against the body.

11. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of the formula (I)



(I)

or a stereoisomeric form or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of the formula I, wherein

A is -(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, in which alkyl is straight-chain or branched and is optionally substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by

-O-R^1 or

-C(O)-OR^1,

-C(O)-NR^1R^1,

-C(O)-NR^1-SO_2R^1,

-NR^1R^1,

-CN, in which R^1 is

hydrogen,

-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl,

-(C_6-C_{14})aryl or

fluoroalkyl of the formula -$C_nH_xF_y$ or fluoroalkoxy of the formula -$OC_nH_xF_y$, wherein n is an integer from 1 to 6, x is an integer from 0 to 12, y is an integer from 1 to 13 and sum of x and y is 2n + 1,

-O-R^1,

-SR^1,

-S(O)-R^1

-$S(O)_2$-R^1

-C(O)-OR^1,

fluoroalkyl of the formula -$C_nH_xF_y$ or fluoroalkoxy of the formula -$OC_nH_xF_y$, wherein n is an integer from 1 to 6, x is an integer from 0 to 12, y is an integer from 1 to 13 and sum of x and y is 2n + 1,

-C(O)-NR^1R^1,

-C(O)-NR^1-SO_2R^1,

-NR^1R^1,

-CN,

heteroaryl having from 5 to 14 ring members, in which heteroaryl is unsubstituted or optionally substituted once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, in which R^2 is

-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl,

-OH,

-O-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl,

halogen,

-N(R^3)-R^4, in which R^3 and R^4 are, independently of each other, hydrogen atom or –(C_1-C_4)-alkyl,

fluoroalkyl of the formula -$C_nH_xF_y$ or fluoroalkoxy of the formula -$OC_nH_xF_y$, wherein n is an integer from 1 to 4, x is an integer from 0 to 8, y is an integer from 1 to 9 and sum of x and y is 2n + 1,

-CN,

-SR^1,

-S(O)-R^1,

-$S(O)_2$-R^1 or

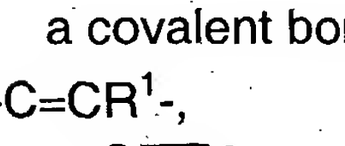
-C(O)-NR^1R^1,

-(C_3-C_6)-cycloalkyl, in which cycloalkyl is unsubstituted or substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, and R^2 is defined as above,

heterocycle having from 5 to 12 ring members, in which heterocycle is unsubstituted or substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, and R^2 is defined as above,

B is a covalent bond,

-C=CR^1-,



,

-O(CH_2)$_a$-, in which a is an integer from 1 to 4,

O, S, NR^2, -C(O)-, -NR^2-C(O)-, -C(O)-NR^2-, -NR^2-SO_2-, -SO_2-NR^2-, -NR^2-C(O)-NR^2-, and R^2 is defined as above, or

-(C_1-C_4)-alkylene, in which alkylene is straight-chain or branched and is optionally substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^1, and R^1 is defined as above,

D is -(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, in which alkyl is straight-chain or branched and is optionally substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^1, and R^1 is defined as above,

heteroaryl having from 5 to 14 ring members, in which heteroaryl is unsubstituted or is substituted once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, and R^2 is defined as above,

heterocycle having from 5 to 12 ring members, in which heterocycle is unsubstituted or substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, and R^2 is defined as above,

-(C_6-C_{14})-aryl, in which aryl is unsubstituted or substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, and R^2 is defined as above, or

-(C_3-C_6)-cycloalkyl, in which cycloalkyl is unsubstituted or substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, and R^2 is defined as above, or

B-D is hydrogen,

halogen,

fluoroalkyl of the formula -$C_nH_xF_y$ or fluoroalkoxy of the formula -$OC_nH_xF_y$, wherein n is an integer from 1 to 4, x is an integer from 0 to 8, y is an integer from 1 to 9 and sum of x and y is 2n + 1,

-$(CH_2)_a$-Y-R^3, in which a is an integer from 1 to 4, Y is O, S, NR^2, and R^3 is

-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl,

-(C_6-C_{14})-aryl,

-(C_3-C_6)-cycloalkyl, and

R is hydrogen,

-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, or

-(C_6-C_{14})-aryl-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, in which aryl is unsubstituted or substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, and R^2 is defined as above, and

X and Z are identical or different and are, independently of each other selected from:

hydrogen atom,

-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl,

-OH,

-O-(C_1-C_4-alkyl),

halogen,

fluoroalkyl of the formula -$C_nH_xF_y$ or fluoroalkoxy of the formula -$OC_nH_xF_y$, wherein n is an integer from 1 to 6, x is an integer from 0 to 12, y is an integer from 1 to 13 and sum of x and y is 2n + 1,

-C(O)-OR^1,

-C(O)-NR^1R^1,

-C(O)-NR^1-SO_2R^1,

-NR^1R^1,

-NR^1-C(O)-NR^1R^1,

-NR^1-C(O)-R^1,

-NR^1-C(O)-OR^1,

-O-C(O)-NR^1R^1,

-CN,

-SR^1,

-S(O)-R^1,

-$S(O)_2$-R^1,

-$S(O)_2$-NR^1R^1,

-NR^1-SO_2-R^1, in which R^1 is as defined above,

heterocycle having from 5 to 12 ring members, in which heterocycle is unsubstituted or substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, and R^2 is defined as above, or

-(C_3-C_6)-cycloalkyl, in which cycloalkyl is unsubstituted or substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, and R^2 is defined as above,

with the proviso that when A is –(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, -O-R^1, -C(O)-OR^1, or

heteroaryl, at least one of the following applies:

B is not a covalent bond or –(C_1-C_4)-alkylene,

D is not heteroaryl, heterocycle, –(C_6-C_{14})-aryl, –(C_3-C_6)-cycloalkyl, or

X and Z are not –(C_1-C_4)-alkyl, -OH, –O-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl, or halogen.

12. The composition as claimed in claim 11, wherein

A is -(C_1-C_3)-alkyl, in which alkyl is straight-chain or branched and is optionally substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by

-O-R^1, or
-C(O)-OR^1, in which R^1 is
hydrogen,
-(C_1-C_3)-alkyl, or
-CF_3

fluoroalkyl of the formula -$C_nH_xF_y$ or fluoroalkoxy of the formula -O$C_nH_xF_y$, wherein n is an integer from 1 to 3, x is an integer from 0 to 6, y is an integer from 1 to 7 and sum of x and y is 2n + 1,

B is a covalent bond or O,

D isphenyl or naphthyl, in which phenyl or naphthyl is unsubstituted or substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, in which R^2 is

fluorine, chlorine or bromine,
-OH,
-CF_3,
-SR^1, in which R^1 is defined as above,
-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl
-O-(C_1-C_2)-alkyl or
-N(R^3)-R^4, in which R^3 and R^4 are, independently of each other, hydrogen atom or –(C_1-C_3)-alkyl,

heteroaryl selected from the group consisting of pyridyl, furanyl, pyrrolyl, isoxazolyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiophenyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, quinoxalinyl and thiophenyl, in which heteroaryl is unsubstituted or substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, in which R^2 is defined as above or

-(C_4-C_6)-cycloalkyl, in which cycloalkyl is unsubstituted or substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, and R^2 is defined as above, or

B-D is $((CH_2)_a$-Y-R^3, in which a is an integer from 1 to 2, Y is O and R^3 is –(C_1-C_3)-alkyl, and

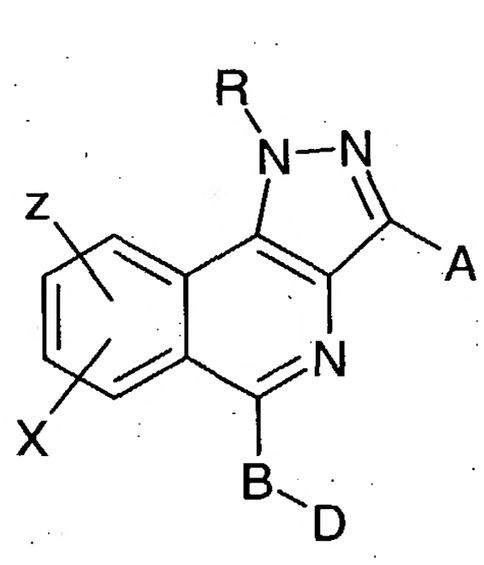
R is hydrogen,
-(C_1-C_3)-alkyl, or
-phenyl-(C_1-C_3)-alkyl, and

X and Z are identical or different and are, independently of each other, hydrogen, -C(O)-O(C_1-C_3)alkyl, -OCH_3, -$N(CH_3)_2$ or halogen.

13. The composition as claimed in claim 11, wherein the compound of the formula I is selected from the group consisting of:
5-pyridin-2-yl-3-trifluoromethyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
1,3-dimethyl-5-(3-trifluoromethylphenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
5-phenyl-3-trifluoromethyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
1,3-dimethyl-5-(3-trifluoromethylphenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
1,3-dimethyl-5-(2,6-difluorophenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
1-benzyl-5-cyclohexyl-3-methyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
1-benzyl-5-naphthyl-3-methyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
5-methoxymethyl-3-methyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
7-methoxycarbonyl-3-methyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,

7-methoxycarbonyl-3-methyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
7-dimethylamino-3-methyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
7-dimethylamino-3-methyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
6-dimethylamino-3-methyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
6-dimethylamino-3-methyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
8-dimethylamino-3-methyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
8-dimethylamino-3-methyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
1,3-dimethyl-5-(3-methyl-thiophen-2-yl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-phenyl-9-trifluoromethyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-9-trifluoromethyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline, and
3-methyl-5-(2,3,4,5,6-pentafluoro-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline.

14. A method of treating a disease condition associated with inflammation comprising administering to a patient suffering from said disease condition a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I):



(I)

or a stereoisomeric form or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of the formula I, wherein

A is -(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, in which alkyl is straight-chain or branched and is optionally substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by

-O-R^1 or

-C(O)-OR^1,

-C(O)-NR^1R^1,

-C(O)-NR^1-SO_2R^1,

-NR^1R^1,

-CN, in which R^1 is

hydrogen,

-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl,

-(C_6-C_{14})aryl or

fluoroalkyl of the formula -$C_nH_xF_y$ or fluoroalkoxy of the formula -O$C_nH_xF_y$, wherein n is an integer from 1 to 6, x is an integer from 0 to 12, y is an integer from 1 to 13 and sum of x and y is 2n + 1,

-O-R^1,

-SR^1,

-S(O)-R^1

-S$(O)_2$-R^1

-C(O)-OR^1,

fluoroalkyl of the formula -$C_nH_xF_y$ or fluoroalkoxy of the formula -O$C_nH_xF_y$, wherein n is an integer from 1 to 6, x is an integer from 0 to 12, y is an integer from 1 to 13 and sum of x and y is 2n + 1,

-C(O)-NR^1R^1,

-C(O)-NR^1-SO_2R^1,

-NR^1R^1,

-CN,

heteroaryl having from 5 to 14 ring members, in which heteroaryl is unsubstituted or optionally substituted once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, in which R^2 is

-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl,

-OH,

-O-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl,
halogen,

-N(R^3)-R^4, in which R^3 and R^4 are, independently of each other, hydrogen atom or –(C_1-C_4)-alkyl,

fluoroalkyl of the formula -$C_nH_xF_y$ or fluoroalkoxy of the formula -$OC_nH_xF_y$, wherein n is an integer from 1 to 4, x is an integer from 0 to 8, y is an integer from 1 to 9 and sum of x and y is 2n + 1,

-CN,
-SR^1,

-$S(O)$-R^1,

-$S(O)_2$-R^1 or
-C(O)-NR^1R^1,

-(C_3-C_6)-cycloalkyl, in which cycloalkyl is unsubstituted or substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, and R^2 is defined as above,

heterocycle having from 5 to 12 ring members, in which heterocycle is unsubstituted or substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, and R^2 is defined as above,

B is a covalent bond,
-C=CR^1-,

—C≡C—,

-O(CH_2)$_a$-, in which a is an integer from 1 to 4,
O, S, NR^2, -C(O)-, -NR^2-C(O)-, -C(O)-NR^2-, -NR^2-SO_2-, -SO_2-NR^2-, -NR^2-C(O)-NR^2-, and R^2 is defined as above, or
-(C_1-C_4)-alkylene, in which alkylene is straight-chain or branched and is optionally substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^1, and R^1 is defined as above,

D is -(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, in which alkyl is straight-chain or branched and is optionally substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^1, and R^1 is defined as above,

heteroaryl having from 5 to 14 ring members, in which heteroaryl is unsubstituted or is substituted once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, and R^2 is defined as above,

heterocycle having from 5 to 12 ring members, in which heterocycle is unsubstituted or substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, and R^2 is defined as above,

-(C_6-C_{14})-aryl, in which aryl is unsubstituted or substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, and R^2 is defined as above, or

-(C_3-C_6)-cycloalkyl, in which cycloalkyl is unsubstituted or substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, and R^2 is defined as above, or

B-D is hydrogen,
halogen,

fluoroalkyl of the formula -$C_nH_xF_y$ or fluoroalkoxy of the formula -$OC_nH_xF_y$, wherein n is an integer from 1 to 4, x is an integer from 0 to 8, y is an integer from 1 to 9 and sum of x and y is 2n + 1,

-$(CH_2)_a$-Y-R^3, in which a is an integer from 1 to 4, Y is O, S, NR^2, and R^3 is
-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl,
-(C_6-C_{14})-aryl,
-(C_3-C_6)-cycloalkyl, and

R is hydrogen,
-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, or
-(C_6-C_{14})-aryl-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, in which aryl is unsubstituted or substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, and R^2 is defined as above, and

X and Z are identical or different and are, independently of each other selected from:

hydrogen atom,

-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl,

-OH,

-O-(C_1-C_4-alkyl),

halogen,

fluoroalkyl of the formula -$C_nH_xF_y$ or fluoroalkoxy of the formula -$OC_nH_xF_y$, wherein n is an integer from 1 to 6, x is an integer from 0 to 12, y is an integer from 1 to 13 and sum of x and y is 2n + 1,

-C(O)-OR^1,

-C(O)-NR^1R^1,

-C(O)-NR^1-SO_2R^1,

-NR^1R^1,

-NR^1-C(O)-NR^1R^1,

-NR^1-C(O)-R^1,

-NR^1-C(O)-OR^1,

-O-C(O)-NR^1R^1,

-CN,

-SR^1,

-S(O)-R^1,

-$S(O)_2$-R^1,

-$S(O)_2$-NR^1R^1,

-NR^1-SO_2-R^1, in which R^1 is as defined above,

heterocycle having from 5 to 12 ring members, in which heterocycle is unsubstituted or substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, and R^2 is defined as above, or

-(C_3-C_6)-cycloalkyl, in which cycloalkyl is unsubstituted or substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, and R^2 is defined as above.

15. The method as claimed in claim 14 wherein

A is -(C_1-C_3)-alkyl, in which alkyl is straight-chain or branched and is optionally substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by
-O-R^1, or
-C(O)-OR^1, in which R^1 is
hydrogen,
-(C_1-C_3)-alkyl, or
-CF_3
fluoroalkyl of the formula -$C_nH_xF_y$ or fluoroalkoxy of the formula -O$C_nH_xF_y$, wherein n is an integer from 1 to 3, x is an integer from 0 to 6, y is an integer from 1 to 7 and sum of x and y is 2n + 1,

B is a covalent bond or O,

D is phenyl or naphthyl, in which phenyl or naphthyl is unsubstituted or substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, in which R^2 is
fluorine, chlorine or bromine,
-OH,
-CF_3,
-SR^1, in which R^1 is defined as above,
-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl
-O-(C_1-C_2)-alkyl or
-N(R^3)-R^4, in which R^3 and R^4 are, independently of each other, hydrogen atom or –(C_1-C_3)-alkyl,

heteroaryl selected from the group consisting of pyridyl, furanyl, pyrrolyl, isoxazolyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiophenyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, quinoxalinyl and thiophenyl, in which heteroaryl is unsubstituted or substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, in which R^2 is defined as above or

-(C_4-C_6)-cycloalkyl, in which cycloalkyl is unsubstituted or substituted, once or more, independently of each other, by R^2, and R^2 is defined as above, or

B-D is $((CH_2)_a$-Y-R^3, in which a is an integer from 1 to 2, Y is O and R^3 is –(C_1-C_3)-alkyl, and

R is hydrogen,
-(C_1-C_3)-alkyl, or
-phenyl-(C_1-C_3)-alkyl, and

X and Z are identical or different and are, independently of each other, hydrogen, -C(O)-O(C_1-C_3)alkyl, -OCH_3, -$N(CH_3)_2$ or halogen.

16. The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the compound of formula (I) is selected from the group consisting of:
5-pyridin-2-yl-3-trifluoromethyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
1,3-dimethyl-5-(3-trifluoromethylphenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
5-phenyl-3-trifluoromethyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
1,3-dimethyl-5-(3-trifluoromethylphenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
1,3-dimethyl-5-(2,6-difluorophenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
1-benzyl-5-cyclohexyl-3-methyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
1-benzyl-5-naphthyl-3-methyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
5-methoxymethyl-3-methyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
7-methoxycarbonyl-3-methyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
7-methoxycarbonyl-3-methyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
7-dimethylamino-3-methyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
7-dimethylamino-3-methyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
6-dimethylamino-3-methyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,

6-dimethylamino-3-methyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
8-dimethylamino-3-methyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
8-dimethylamino-3-methyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
1,3-dimethyl-5-(3-methyl-thiophen-2-yl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-phenyl-9-trifluoromethyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-9-trifluoromethyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline, and
3-methyl-5-(2,3,4,5,6-pentafluoro-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline.

17. The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the compound of formula (I) is selected from the group consisting of:
5-benzo[b]thiophene-2yl-3-methyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
7-bromo-3-methyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
7-bromo-3-methyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
5-(3-chloro-benzo[b]thiophen-2-yl)-3-methyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
5-(2-chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-3-methyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
5-(6-chloro-pyridin-3-yl)-3-methyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-ethyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-ethyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-ethyl-5-pyridin-3-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
5-furan-2-yl-3-methyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
7-methoxy-3-methyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(3-methyl-benzofuran-2-yl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]-isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
6-chloro-3-methyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
6-fluoro-3-methyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
8-chloro-3-methyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
8-fluoro-3-methyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
9-chloro-3-methyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
9-fluoro-3-methyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3,9-dimethyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,

3-methyl-5-(2-methyl-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(3-methyl-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(4-methyl-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(2-bromo-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(3-bromo-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(2-chloro-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(4-chloro-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(3,4-dichloro-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(2,6-dichloro-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(2-fluoro-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(2,4-difluoro-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(2,6-difluoro-phenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
6-chloro-3-methyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
6-fluoro-3-methyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
8-chloro-3-methyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
8-fluoro-3-methyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
9-chloro-3-methyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
9-fluoro-3-methyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3,9-dimethyl-5-pyridin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-(1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-quinolin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-quinolin-3-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-quinoxalin-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline,
3-methyl-5-thiophen-2-yl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline, and
3-methyl-5-(3-methyl-thiophen-2-yl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]isoquinoline.

18. The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the disease condition is selected from the group consisting of multiple sclerosis, atherosclerosis, inflammatory bowel disease, Alzheimer's disease, stroke and diabetes.

19. The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the disease condition is multiple sclerosis.

20. The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the disease condition is atherosclerosis.

21. The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the disease condition is inflammatory bowel disease.

22. The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the disease condition is Alzheimer's disease.

23. The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the disease condition is stroke.

24. The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the disease condition is diabetes.